

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03

FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01 ARA-06 /105 W

-----131751Z 031879 /42

R 131646Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9437

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP

SUBJECT: RUBBER -- MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF

1. SUMMARY - AT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF IRSG ON JANUARY 11, THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION OF UNCTAD AND ANRPC PAPERS AND ONLY DECISION THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME SORT OF ROLE FOR THE IRSG AT UNCTAD CONSULTATION IN GENEVA.

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2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RUBBER STUDY GROUP (IRSG) MET JANUARY 11 WITH ROBIN HOPE (UK DEPT. OF TRADE) WHO HAS SUCCEEDED DAVID DELL IN CHAIR. MEETING WAS CALLED TO CONSIDER WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY ANRPC FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE UNCTAD MEETING IN GENEVA JANUARY 17-21 AND THE DRAFT OF A PAPER TO BE

SUBMITTED TO SAME MEETING BY THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT. MALAYSIAN DELEGATE FATAH SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO DISCUSS THESE DOCUMENTS PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION IN GENEVA AS BOTH WERE STILL IN PRELIMINARY STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT. IRSG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BATEMAN RELUCTANTLY CONCURRED IN THIS VIEW AND SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE MORE USEFUL FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS WHAT ROLE IRSG SHOULD PLAY IN GENEVA.

3. FOLLOWING RATHER MUTED DISCUSSION DURING WHICH SEVERAL DELEGATES REITERATED THEIR PAST STATEMENTS ON IRSG ROLE, IT WAS DECIDED THAT BATEMAN SHOULD MAKE A STATEMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFERENCE IN ORDER THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE IRSG AND ITS READINESS TO PLAY A ROLE AT LEAST BE MADE KNOWN. MALAYSIA AGREED TO THIS APPROACH ONLY AFTER BEING ASSURED THAT BATEMAN WOULD NOT RECOMMEND TO UNCTAD SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR ANY IRSG ROLE. IN THE DISCUSSION, THE MEXICAN DELEGATE (GURRIA) NOTED THAT WHILE IT WAS NOW IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHAT THE ROLE OF THE IRSG SHOULD BE, IT SHOULD NONETHELESS HAVE A FUNDAMENTAL ROLE IN ANY FINAL APPROACH. THE FRG DELEGATE (SCHMIDT-DAHLENBURG) VOICED CONCERN OVER THE IRSG BEING ABLE TO PLAY ANY ROLE AT ALL AS THE ANRPC PROPOSAL DID NOT SEEM TO ALLOW FOR "DOVETAILING" WITH EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS. MALAYSIA (FATAH) REPLIED THAT HE SAW A DANGER IN TRYING TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING WHEN THE PAPERS HAD NOT YET BEEN PRESENTED. THUS THE DISCUSSION WAS LEFT WITH NOTHING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECIDED CONCERNING A FUTURE IRSG ROLE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION OF WHETHER BATEMAN, AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE IRSG HAD ACTUALLY RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO THE UNCTAD PROCEEDINGS, BATEMAN REPLIED THAT WHILE HE HAD ONLY RECEIVED NOTIFICATION OF THE MEETINGS, HE CONSIDERED THAT AN INVITATION AND HAD WRITTEN BACK TO INDICATE THAT HE WOULD BE ATTENDING.

5. IT WAS HOWEVER AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE IRSG TO MEET DURING THE UNCTAD CONSULTATIONS WITH DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT DURING THE WEEK. SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE IRSG, NOT JUST THOSE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. BATEMAN WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE IRSG CAN RESPOND QUICKLY AND POSITIVELY TO ANY REQUEST FROM UNCTAD TO PLAY A SUBSTANTIAL ROLE IN THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ANY RUBBER SCHEME WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED.

ARMSTRONG

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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